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Controlled Release Formulations Using Intelligent Polymers

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Field of the Invention

The present invention is directed to novel controlled release formulations of pharmaceutically active substances and methods for their preparation. More particularly, the present invention relates to an easily absorbable, controlled release pharmaceutical formulation utilizing groups of intelligent polymers having opposing wettability characteristics.

Background of the Invention

Controlled release formulations of pharmaceutical agents is an extremely large market in the pharmaceutical and medical fields. A number of types of controlled release dosage forms are known, including matrix tablet systems incorporating active ingredients, fillers and various types of excipients. The very different properties of numerous different types of pharmaceutically active ingredients has necessitated the development of a number of different drug delivery systems utilizing polymer technology in order to provide an appropriate release of a particular medicament after oral ingestion by a patient.

U.S. Patents 4,601,894 and 4,687,757 describe a controlled release drug delivery system which contains hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPMC) and a second polymer such as ethylcellulose, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose or other cellulose ethers. U.S. Patent 4,680,323 describes a carrier system comprising hydroxypropyl cellulose and a carboxy vinyl polymer. U.S. Patent 4,695,591 describes the use of HPMC for mediating controlled release of pharmaceutically active substances. U.S. Patent 4,994,276 teaches a free-flowing directly compressible granulation useful as a slow release pharmaceutical excipient. The excipient includes a hydrophilic matrix which includes a heteropolysaccharide and a polysaccharide material capable of cross-linking the heteropolysaccharide.

U.S. Patent. 4,167,558 teaches a novel sustained release tableted formulation for oral administration. The formulation is hydrodynamically balanced to be buoyant in gastric juice thereby remaining in the stomach for an extended period of time. U.S. Patent 4,259,314 teaches a method and composition for the preparation of controlled long-acting pharmaceuticals using a dry carrier or base material comprising an effective amount of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose

suitable for use with both hygroscopic and non-hygroscopic materials. The controlled long-acting products of the invention are suitable for use in the form of lozenges, bucal tablets, oral tablets or suppositories.

U.S. Patent 4,308,251 teaches a tablet formulation comprising an effective
5 amount of an active acidic therapeutic agent, a release-controlling agent and an erosion-promoting agent in relative amounts to provide a criticality factor of less than 450, and in proportions of release-controlling and erosion-promoting agent, respectively, between 0.8-1.6 and 1.0-7.5 weight percent per tablet. The tablets of this invention exhibit zero order release *in vitro* and closely approximate zero order
10 absorption *in vivo*.

U.S. Patent No 4,361,545 teaches a class of solid pharmaceutical formulations which provides slow, zero order *in vivo* release of a wide range of pharmaceutically active ingredients upon oral administration. A broad range of release rates can be preselected by suitable adjustments of tablet properties. The formulations are based
15 upon control of active ingredient release from the surface of the tablet via a controlled surface erosion mechanism.

U.S. Patent 4,389,393 teaches a carrier base material combined with a therapeutically active medicament and shaped and compressed to a solid unit dosage form having a regular and prolonged release pattern upon administration, the carrier
20 base material being one or more hydroxypropylmethylcelluloses or a mixture of one or more hydroxypropylmethylcelluloses having a methoxy content of 16-24 weight%, a hydroxypropoxyl content of 4-32 weight% and an average molecular weight of at least 50,000.

U.S. Patent 4,525,345 teaches a constant release rate indomethacin
25 formulation in tablet unit dosage form containing an admixture of from 50 to 200 mg of indomethacin, from about 1.7 to 3.7 weight percent of a slow-dissolving, water-insoluble cellulose derivative, from about 1.5 to 5.0 weight percent of a tableting disintegrant, and from about 40 to 80 weight percent of a pharmaceutically acceptable bulking agent or diluent.

U.S. Patent 4,556,678 teaches a tablet consisting essentially of a
30 therapeutically effective amount of propranolol to provide a sustained release thereof over a prolonged period of time. The tablet comprises compressed granules having from about 0.1 to about 10 parts by weight hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and about one part by weight hydroxypropyl cellulose.

U.S. Patent 4,692,337 teaches a sustained release pharmaceutical tablet
35 comprising theophylline and ethyl cellulose uniformly dispersed therein in an amount

of 5 to 200 parts by weight of ethyl cellulose based on 100 parts by weight of the theophylline.

U.S. Patent 4,756,911 teaches a controlled release pharmaceutical formulation in the form of a coated tablet, containing a core portion from which medicament, such as procainamide hydrochloride, is slowly released over a controlled length of time. The core also includes one or more primary hydrocolloid gelling agents which is a hydropropymethyl cellulose having a viscosity of within the range of from about 1,000 to about 6,000 centipoises in 2% solution at 20°C, a methoxyl content of 28-30% and optionally a secondary hydrocarbon gelling agent, such as hydroxypropyl cellulose and/or methyl cellulose.

U.S. Patent 5,073,380 teaches a pharmaceutical sustained release tablet containing a pharmaceutical active, hydroxyethyl cellulose, a wicking agent, povidone, pregelatinized starch, lubricant and a glidant.

U.S. Patent 5,417,982 teaches a controlled release formulation for use with a variety of drugs or hormones in microspherical form. The drug or hormone, e.g. bovine somatotropine, is suspended in a polymer matrix formed from at least two highly water soluble biodegradable polymers. The microspheres are coated with a (δ ,l lactide-glycolide) copolymer.

U.S. Patent 4,968,509 teaches an acetaminophen-sustained release tablet formed by making a wet granulation, using Povidone (PVP) in water or alcohol-water as the granulating fluid which is mixed with acetaminophen, hydroxyethyl cellulose, a wicking agent e.g. microcrystalline cellulose, then drying and milling the granulation and blending with dry powdered erosion promoter, e.g. pregelatinized starch, wicking agent, lubricant e.g. magnesium stearate and glidant e.g. silicon dioxide, and compressing the resultant granulation.

U.S. Patent 5,462,747 teaches a pharmaceutical sustained release homogeneous tablet formed by making a wet granulation using povidone (PVP) in alcohol as the granulating fluid mixed with a pharmaceutical active, ethylcellulose, a wicking agent, e.g. microcrystalline cellulose, an erosion promoter, e.g. pregelatinized starch, then drying and milling the granulation and blending with a dry powdered erosion promoter, wicking agent, lubricant and glidant.

U.S. Patent 5,543,154 teaches a device for the controlled delivery of a beneficial agent as a gelatinous dispersion consisting of a core which contains a beneficial agent, a polymer which forms gelatinous microscopic particles upon hydration and if desired an agent to modulate the hydration of the polymer; and an impermeable, insoluble coating which adheres to and surrounds the core and contains apertures which provides an area for the hydration and release of a dispersion comprising gelatinous microscopic particles.

U.S. Patent No. 5,439,687 teaches pharmaceutical dosage forms for the daily oral administration of nifedipine or of another calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type, characterised by the homogeneous matrix containing 2-50% by weight of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having an average molecular weight of 20,000-250,000, 5-60% by weight of a calcium antagonist of the dihydropyridine type, as well as excipients compatible with the formulation.

U.S. Patent 5,264,446 teaches a solid pharmaceutical composition of nifedipine crystals having specific surface area of 1-4 m²/g in the form of tablets, pills, drages, capsules, suppositories, sachets or two layer tablets resulting in sustained release.

While these systems can provide for sustained release of a selected active ingredient, most of these systems have the disadvantage of being affected by the presence of food and gastrointestinal enzymes in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Therefore, the active ingredient is often not delivered in a consistent and reproducible manner. In addition, osmotic and press coated tablets are particularly difficult and expensive to manufacture.

It is therefore particularly desirable to design an efficient drug delivery system that is capable of controlled drug delivery of both high dose, highly soluble, hydrophilic and low dose, poorly soluble, hydrophobic pharmaceutically active substance(s) into the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) in order to provide sustained therapeutic effects for over 24 hours with only a single dose and without any food effect. It is also highly desirable to develop a drug delivery system that is relatively easy and inexpensive to manufacture and more efficient in providing a sustained release of pharmaceutical agents than the known controlled delivery systems.

Summary of the Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide a novel controlled sustained release delivery composition which may contain a wide variety of pharmaceutically active ingredients and which demonstrates good absorbability of the selected active ingredient and a maintenance of the therapeutically effective blood level of the pharmaceutically active ingredient for a long duration of time by one time administration. This novel controlled release composition and system has been named IntelliGITransporter™.

According to an object of the present invention there is provided a novel controlled release delivery composition comprising at least one selected pharmaceutically active ingredient incorporated within a homogeneous matrix comprising effective amounts of two intelligent polymers having opposing wettability characteristics, wherein one polymer is selected which demonstrates a stronger

tendency towards hydrophobicity and the other polymer is selected which demonstrates a stronger tendency towards hydrophilicity.

Preferably, the active pharmaceutical ingredient selected has a water contact angle (θ) such that $\cos \theta$ is between +0.9848 and -0.9848. Also, preferably the intelligent polymer demonstrating a stronger tendency towards hydrophobicity is ethylcellulose (EC) whereas the intelligent polymer demonstrating a stronger tendency towards hydrophilicity is hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC) and/or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC).

It is still further objective of the present invention to provide a controlled release delivery composition wherein the selection of the pharmaceutically active ingredient, the physiochemical properties, the proportion of polymer blend and the wettability of the pharmaceutically active substance(s) provides effective controlled release of the pharmaceutically active substance(s).

It is yet a further object of the present invention to provide an effective drug delivery composition that is capable of controlled drug delivery of both high dose, highly soluble hydrophilic or low dose poorly soluble hydrophobic pharmaceutically active substance(s) to the gastrointestinal tract with a zero or first order kinetics.

In accordance with a further object of the present invention is a device for providing a controlled release of a pharmaceutically active ingredient contained therein, the device comprising at least one selected pharmaceutically active ingredient incorporated within a homogeneous matrix comprising effective amounts of two intelligent polymers having opposing wettability characteristics, wherein one polymer is selected which demonstrates a stronger tendency towards hydrophobicity and the other polymer is selected which demonstrates a stronger tendency towards hydrophilicity.

The composition and device of the present invention can be provided as a tablet and may be optionally encased in a coating material which prevents the burst and/or food effect associated with orally ingested medicaments and imparts gastrointestinal stealth characteristics. The encoated matrix providing controlled release kinetics comparable to those of osmotic or press coated controlled release devices. The composition may be provided for oral administration or as a suppository depending on the chosen pharmaceutical active agent selected therein.

It is yet a further objective of the present invention to provide a controlled release drug delivery system for the effective delivery of one or more of the following pharmaceutically active ingredients: nifedipine, nicardipine, felodipine, captopril, naproxen, diclofenac, terfenadine, pentoxifylline, fenofibrate, glipizide, buspirone, cisapride, verapamil, diltiazem, aciclovir, zidovudine, pilocarpine, moclobemide, lamotrigine, risperidon, clonazepam, nefazodone, lovastatin, simvastatin, pravachol,

ketorolac, hydromorphone, morphine, ticlopidine, seligiline, venlafaxine, alprazolam, carbamazepine, divalproex and phenytoin.

It is also a further objective of the present invention to provide controlled delivery of therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of anti-histamines, anti-depressants, anti-viral agents, anesthetics, antacids, anti-arthritis, antibiotics, anti-psychotics, anti-spasmodics, anxiolytic agents, appetite suppressants, cardiovascular agents, cough suppressants, emollients, gastro-intestinal agents, growth regulators, hypoglycemic agents, respiratory stimulants, vitamins, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, anti-asthmatics, anti-cholesterolemics, anti-convulsants, anti-depressants, anti-diarrhea preparations, anti-infectives, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-nauseants, anti-stroke agents, anti-tumor drugs, anti-tussives, anti-uricemic drugs, amino-acid preparations, antiemetics, antiobesity drugs, antiparasitics, antipyretics, appetite stimulants, cerebral dilators, chelating agents, cholecystokinin antagonists, cognition activators, deodorants, dermatological agents, diabetes agents, diuretics, erythropoietic drugs, fertility agents, synthetic hormones, laxatives, mineral supplements, neuroleptics, neuromuscular agents, peripheral vaso-dilators, prostaglandins, vaginal preparations, vaso-constrictors and vertigo agents; acetaminophen, acetic acid, acetylsalicylic acid, buffered acetylsalicylic acid, albuterol, albuterol sulfate, ethanol isopropanol, allantoin, aloe, aluminum acetate, aluminum carbonate, aluminum chlorohydrate, aluminum hydroxide, alprozolam, amino acids, aminobenzoic acid, amoxicillin, ampicillin, amsacrine, amsalog, anethole, aspartame, atenolol, bacitracin, balsam peru, beclomethasone dipropionate, benzocaine, benzoic acid, benzophenones, benzoylperoxide, biotin, bisacodyl, bornyl acetate, brompheniramine maleate, bupropion, caffeine, calamine, calcium, calcium carbonate, calcium casinate, calcium hydroxide, camphor, captopril, cascara sagrada, castor oil, cefaclor, cefadroxil, cephalixin, cetylalcohol, cetylpyridinium chloride, chelated minerals, chloramphenicol, chlorcyclizine hydrochloride, chlorhexidine gluconate, chloroxylenol, chloropentostatin, chlorpheniramine maleate, cholestyramine resin, choline bitartrate, cimetidine hydrochloride, cinnamedrine hydrochloride, citalopram, citric acid, cocoa butter, cod liver oil, codeine and codeine phosphate, clonidine, clonidine hydrochloride, clorfibrate, ciprofloxacin HCl, cyanocobalamin, cyclizine hydrochloride, danthron, dexbrompheniramine maleate, dextromethorphan hydrobromide, diazepam, dibucaine diclofenac sodium, digoxin, dimethicone, dioxybenzone, diphenhydramine citrate, diphenhydramine hydrochloride, docusate calcium, docusate potassium, docusate sodium, doxycycline hyclate, doxylamine succinate, efaroan, enalapril, enoxacin, erythromycin, estropipate, ethinyl estradiol ephedrine, epinephrine bitartrate, erythropoietin, eucalyptol, ferrous fumarate, ferrous gluconate, ferrous sulfate, folic acid,

fosphenytoin, fluoxetine HCl, furosemide, gaba entan gentamicin, gemfibrozil,
 glipizide, glycerin, glyceryl stearate, griseofulvin, guaifenesin, hexylresorcinol,
 hydrochlorothiazide, hydrocodone bitartrate, hydrocortisone, hydrocortisone acetate,
 8-hydroxyquinoline sulfate, ibuprofen, indomethacin, inositol, insulin, iodine, ipecac,
 5 iron, isoxicam, ketamine, koalin, lactic acid, lanolin, lecithin, lidocaine, lidocaine
 hydrochloride, lifinopril, liotrix, lovastatin, magnesium carbonate, magnesium
 salicylate, magnesium trisilicate, mefenamic acid, meclofenamic acid, meclofenamate
 sodium, medroxyprogesterone acetate, methenamine mandelate, menthol, meperidine
 hydrochloride, metaproterenol sulfate, methyl nicotinate, methyl salicylate,
 10 methylcellulose, methsuximide, metromidazole, metromidazole hydrochloride,
 metoprolol tartrate, miconazole nitrate, mineral oil, minoxidil, morphine, naproxen
 sodium, neomycin sulfate, niacin, niacinamide, nicotine, nicotinamide, nitroglycerin,
 nonoxynol-9, norethindone, norethindone acetate, nystatin, octoxynol, octyl dimethyl
 PABA, octyl methoxycinnamate, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, omeprazole,
 15 oxolinic acid, oxybenzone, oxtriphylline, para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA), padimate,
 paramethadione, pentastatin, peppermint oil, pentaerythritol tetranitrate, pentobarbital
 sodium, pheniramine maleate, phenobarbital, phenol, phenolphthalein, phenylephrine
 hydrochloride, phenylpropanolamine, phenylpropanolamine, hydrochloride,
 phenytoin, phenelzine, sulfate, pirlmenol, piroxicam, polymyxin B sulfate, potassium
 20 chloride, potassium nitrate, prazepam, procianamide hydrochloride, procaterol,
 propoxyphene, propoxyphene HCl, propoxyphene napsylate, pramiracitin, pramoxine,
 pramoxine hydrochloride, propranolol HCl, pseudoephedrine hydrochloride,
 pseudoephedrine sulfate, pyridoxine, quinapril, quinidine gluconate, quinestrol
 ralitoline, ranitidine, resorcinol, riboflavin, salicylic acid, sesame oil, shark liver oil,
 25 simethicone, sodium bicarbonate, sodium citrate, sodium fluoride, sodium
 monofluorophosphate, sulfanethoxazole, sulfur, tacrine, tacrine HCl, theophylline,
 tramadol, terfenidine, thioperidone, trimetrexate, triazolam, timolol maleate, tretinoin,
 tetracycline hydrochloride, tolmetin, tolnaftate, triclosan, triprolidine hydrochloride,
 undecylenic acid, vancomycin, vidaribine phosphate, vitamin A, vitamin B, vitamin
 30 C, vitamin D, vitamin E, vitamin K, witch hazel, xylometazoline hydrochloride, zinc,
 zinc sulfate, and zincundecylenate.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention is a method for
 preparing a device for the controlled release of selected pharmaceutically active
 ingredients, the method comprising blending at least one selected pharmaceutically
 35 active substance having a water contact angle (θ) such that $\cos \theta$ is between +0.9848
 and -0.9848 with about 5 to 25% by weight hydrophilic polymer and about 1 to 25%
 hydrophobic polymer, adding suitable pharmaceutical excipients, surface active
 agents and lubricants, granulating the mixture with isopropyl alcohol, drying the

granular mixture, milling the dried mixture, adding about 5 to 70% ethylcellulose, adding a lubricant and optionally a glidant and compressing the granules into tablets. The tablets are optionally encased in a gastrointestinal stealth encasement or a pharmaceutically acceptable film coat.

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Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The present invention provides a composition which provides controlled sustained release of pharmaceutically active ingredients and demonstrates stealth characteristics. The composition of the present invention provides a pseudo first order, first order or zero order release of pharmaceutically active substances that have a water contact angle (θ) such that $\cos \theta$ is between +0.9948 and -0.9848. The composition may be presented as a matrix tablet in which the pharmaceutically active ingredients are intimately mixed with two groups of intelligent polymers having opposing wettability characteristics, one demonstrating a stronger tendency towards hydrophobicity for example ethylcellulose (EC) and the other possessing a stronger tendency towards hydrophilicity, for example ethoxyethylcellulose (HEC) or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC). The composition can be made with suitable pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, suitable surface active agents, lubricants, channeling agents and compression enhancers.

The amount of ethylcellulose in the composition should not be less than about 5% wt/wt, and preferably, is about 5% to about 70% wt/wt of the final formulation. The HEC and HPMC are present in a ratio of about 1:100 to about 100:1, the preferred ratio being from about 1:50 to about 50:1. Together, the intelligent polymers provide a homogeneous matrix for the pharmaceutically active ingredient and have the following single and three-component calculated solubility parameters ($\text{MPa}^{0.5}$) using the group contribution method.

Wettability of polymer	δ	δ_t	δ_d	δ_p	δ_h	δ_a
More hydrophilic	18-50	18-45	12-17	2-8	12-20	13-20
More hydrophobic	15-25	14-24	12-17	2-7	5-15	6-13

Where δ is the conventional Hildebrand parameter, t = total, d = dispersion, p = polar, h = hydrogen bond and a = association interactions.

Preferred excipients for use in the compositions of the present invention include glidants such as silicon dioxide which may be present in an amount of about 0.25% to 5% wt/wt. Suitable surface active agents may be present in the amount of about 0.5% to 15% wt/wt and include sodium lauryl sulfate. Channeling agents may be present in an amount of about 10% to 70% wt/wt and include anhydrous lactose. Suitable lubricants for use in the composition are present in an amount of about 0.1% to 5% and include magnesium stearate. An optional compression enhancer may be present in an amount of

about 5% to 30% wt/wt and includes microcrystalline cellulose. Although the preferred excipients, surface active agents, lubricants, channeling agents, and compression enhancers are listed herein, it is understood by those skilled in the art that other suitable excipients, surface active agents, lubricants, channeling agents, and compression enhancers may also be used in the present invention. One skilled in the art would clearly understand the different types of excipients, surface active agents, channeling agents, and compression enhancers suitable for use in the present invention.

The pharmaceutically active ingredients are selected from those substances that have a water contact angle (θ) such that $\cos \theta$ is between +0.9948 and -0.9848. The composition may contain one or more such active ingredients in an amount to provide therapeutically effective dosages. The pharmaceutically active ingredients may be selected from but are not limited to nifedipine, nicardipine, felodipine, captopril, naproxen, diclofenac, terfenadine, pentoxifylline, fenofibrate, glipizide, buspirone, cisapride, verapamil, diltiazem, aciclovir, zidovudine, pilocarpine, moclobemide, lamotrigine, risperidon, clonazepam, nefazodone, lovastatin, simvastatin, pravachol, ketorolac, hydromorphone, morphine, ticlopidine, seligiline, venlafaxine, alprazolam, carbamazepine, divalproex and phenytoin.

A most preferred pharmaceutically active ingredient is nifedipine which provides coronary vasodilating and hypotensive effects. As this medicament is hardly water soluble, has little absorbability in body fluids and is rapidly metabolized and excreted, it is highly advantageous to provide nifedipine in the controlled release composition of the present invention. Also, most preferred as pharmaceutically active ingredients are glipizide and diltiazem, verapamil, buspirone, tramadol and bupropion hydrochlorides.

Not to be bound by any theory, it is believed that the release of the pharmaceutically active ingredient within the present composition is provided due to the unique mixture of the rate controlling constituents and excipients in the selected ratios. When the composition is used as a matrix tablet, the solid nifedipine dissolves from the outer surface of the matrix tablet first. When this surface becomes exhausted of nifedipine, the underlying material begins to be depleted by dissolution and diffusion through the matrix to the external solution. During dissolution, some of the rate controlling constituents (the polymer blend) have a tendency towards swelling and thus act as a foci for cleavage or erosion of the matrix tablet. This leads to a cleavage of discrete amounts of nifedipine in combination with the rest of the excipients in the composition at the point of contact or interface between the rate controlling constituents and the other ingredients. In this manner, the interface between the region containing dissolved nifedipine and that containing dispersed nifedipine rescinds into the interior as a front. As the cleavage occurs, the nifedipine

is readily absorbed. The release rate becomes smaller towards the end of dissolution due to a reduction in volume of the tablet.

When the composition is made and encased in coating material, the release of nifedipine is due to the encasement coat surrounding the homogeneous matrix tablet and the unique mixture of the rate controlling constituents and excipients in carefully selected ratios within the matrix tablet. Stepwise ionization of the surface groups of the encasement coat triggered by the pH of the surrounding media and the resulting gradual dissolution of the encasement coat over time exposes the matrix tablet to the fluids of the GI system. The solid nifedipine when in contact with the fluids of the GI system dissolves from the outer surface of the matrix tablet first. When this surface becomes exhausted of nifedipine, or other selected pharmaceutically active agent, the underlying material begins to be depleted by dissolution and diffusion through the matrix to the external solution.

The present composition provides controlled release of pharmaceutically active ingredient over an extended period of time (up to at least 20 hours) with minimal initial dumping effects, such that the active ingredient is still being released from the composition 20 hours later.

Furthermore, therapeutic agents may also be used in the composition of the present invention and are selected from the group consisting of anti-histamines, anti-depressants, anti-viral agents, anesthetics, antacids, anti-arthritis, antibiotics, anti-psychotics, anti-spasmodics, anxiolytic agents, appetite suppressants, cardiovascular agents, cough suppressants, emollients, gastro-intestinal agents, growth regulators, hypoglycemic agents, respiratory stimulants, vitamins, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, anti-asthmatics, anti-cholesterolemics, anti-convulsants, anti-depressants, anti-diarrhea preparations, anti-infectives, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-nauseants, anti-stroke agents, anti-tumor drugs, anti-tussives, anti-uricemic drugs, amino-acid preparations, antiemetics, antiobesity drugs, antiparasitics, antipyretics, appetite stimulants, cerebral dilators, chelating agents, cholecystokinin antagonists, cognition activators, deodorants, dermatological agents, diabetes agents, diuretics, erythropoietic drugs, fertility agents, synthetic hormones, laxatives, mineral supplements, neuroleptics, neuromuscular agents, peripheral vaso-dilators, prostaglandins, vaginal preparations, vaso-constrictors and vertigo agents; acetaminophen, acetic acid, acetylsalicylic acid, buffered acetylsalicylic acid, albuterol, albuterol sulfate, ethanol isopropanol, allantoin, aloe, aluminum acetate, aluminum carbonate, aluminum chlorohydrate, aluminum hydroxide, alproazolam, amino acids, aminobenzoic acid amoxicillin, ampicillin, amsacrine, amsalog, anethole, aspartame, atenolol, bacitracin, balsam peru, beclomethasone dipropionate, benzocaine, benzoic acid, benzophenones, benzoylperoxide, biotin, bisacodyl, bornyl

acetate, brompheniramine maleate, buspirone, caffeine, calamine, calcium, calcium carbonate, calcium casinate, calcium hydroxide, camphor, captopril, cascara sagrada, castor oil, cefaclor, cefadroxil, cephalixin, cetylalcohol, cetylpyridinium chloride, chelated minerals, chloramphenicol, chlorcyclizine hydrochloride, chlorhexidine gluconate, chloroxylenol, chloropentostatin, chlorpheniramine maleate, cholestyramine resin, choline bitartrate, cimetidine hydrochloride, cinnamedrine hydrochloride, citalopram, citric acid, cocoa butter, cod liver oil, codeine and codeine phosphate, clonidine, clonidine hydrochloride, clorfibrate, ciprofloxacin HCl, cyanocobalamin, cyclizine hydrochloride, danthron, dexbrompheniramine maleate, dextromethorphan hydrobromide, diazepam, dibucaine diclofenac sodium digoxin dimethicone, dioxybenzone, diphenhydramine citrate, diphenhydramine hydrochloride, docusate calcium, docusate potassium, docusate sodium, doxycycline hyclate, doxylamine succinate, efavoxan, enalapril, enoxacin, erythromycin, estropipate, ethinyl estradiol, ephedrine, epinephrine bitartrate, eucalyptol, ferrous fumarate, ferrous gluconate, ferrous sulfate, folic acid, fosphenytoin, fluoxetine HCl, furosemide, gabapentin, gentamicin, gemfibrozil, glipizide, glycerin, glyceryl stearate, izipreofulvin, guaifenesin, hexylresorcinol, hydrochlorothiazide, hydrocodone bitartrate, hydrocortisone, hydrocortisone acetate, 8-hydroxyquinoline sulfate, ibuprofen, indomethacin, inositol, insulin, iodine, ipecac, iron, isoxicam, ketamine, koalin, lactic acid, lanolin, lecithin, lidocaine, lidocaine hydrochloride, lisinopril, liotrix, lovastatin, magnesium carbonate, magnesium salicylate, magnesium trisilicate, mefenamic acid, meclizine, meclizine hydrochloride, meclizine sodium, medroxyprogesterone acetate, methamphetamine mandelate, menthol, meperidine hydrochloride, metaproterenol sulfate, methyl nicotinate, methyl salicylate, methylcellulose, methsuximide, metomidazole, metomidazole hydrochloride, metoprolol tartrate, miconazole nitrate, mineral oil, minoxidil, morphine, naproxen sodium, neomycin sulfate, niacin, niacinamide, nicotine, nicotinamide, nitroglycerin, nonoxonyl-9, norethindrone, norethindrone acetate, nystatin, octoxynol, octyl dimethyl PABA, octyl methoxycinnamate, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, omeprazole, oxolinic acid, oxybenzone, oxytriphylline, para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA), padimate, paramethadione, pentastatin, peppermint oil, pentaerythritol tetranitrate, pentobarbital sodium, pheniramine maleate, phenobarbital, phenol, phenolphthalein, phenylephrine hydrochloride, phenylpropanolamine, phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride, phenytoin, phenylzine, sulfate, piroxicam, polymyxin B sulfate, potassium chloride, potassium nitrate, prazepam, procainamide hydrochloride, procaterol, propoxyphene, propoxyphene HCl, propoxyphene napsylate, pramiracetin, pramoxine, pramoxine hydrochloride, propranolol HCl, pseudoephedrine hydrochloride, pseudoephedrine sulfate, pyridoxine, quinapril, quinidine gluconate, quinestrol, ralitoline, ranitidine,

resorcinol, riboflavin, salicylic acid, sesame oil, shark liver oil, simethicone, sodium bicarbonate, sodium citrate, sodium fluoride, sodium monofluorophosphate, sulfanethoxazole, sulfur, tacrine, tacrine HCl, theophylline, terfenidine, thioperidone, trimetrexate, triazolam, timolol maleate, tretinoin, tetracycline hydrochloride, 5 tolmetin, tolnaftate, triclosan, triprolidine hydrochloride, undecylenic acid, vancomycin, vidaribine phosphate, vitamin A, vitamin B, vitamin C, vitamin D, vitamin E, vitamin K, witch hazel, xylometazoline hydrochloride, zinc, zinc sulfate, and zincundecylenate.

The compositions of the invention may be formulated in a tablet form or as a 10 suppository. For both formulations, a coating composition can be optionally applied. Such a coating composition comprises anionic copolymers based on methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate and are provided in an amount sufficient to obtain 0.5 to 15 mg per cm² on the tablet or suppository. This encasement coat, 0.5% - 15% wt/wt, acts to 15 minimize the initial burst effect seen in administered tableted compositions and also imparts gastrointestinal tract (GIT) "stealth" characteristics especially in the presence of food.

The present invention also provides a method for the manufacture of the novel controlled release pharmaceutical compositions in which the order and rate of drug release is dependant on the physicochemical properties and proportion of polymer blend 20 and the wettability of the pharmaceutically active substance(s) such that sustained release effects are obtained therapeutically.

In a preferred embodiment, a two step granulation technique is used to prepare a desired controlled release device containing at least one selected active ingredient. The method comprises intragranulation by wet granulation and extragranulation by 25 dry granulation. In the intragranulation process the pharmaceutically active substance is blended with about 5-25% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (preferably METHOCEL® premium grade type K4M PREM), about 1-20% hydroxyethylcellulose (preferably NATROSOL® 250HHX), together with suitable pharmaceutical excipients such glidants e.g., silicone dioxide about (0.25-5%), surface active agents e.g., sodium 30 lauryl sulfate about (0.5-15%), channelling agents such as anhydrous lactose about (10-70%) and optionally a compression enhancer e.g., microcrystalline cellulose, AVICEL® 101 about (5-30%) until a homogeneous mixture is obtained. Blending can be done in a V-blender but preferably in a planetary or high shear mixer. The homogeneous blend is then granulated with isopropyl alcohol (99%) in a planetary or 35 high shear mixer. It is preferred that the granulating solvent is a non aqueous solvent.

The wet granules are dried in a fluid bed or in tray dryers to a loss on drying of <3% and organic volatile impurities of isopropyl alcohol about <15000 ppm. The dry

granules are milled to about < 1500 microns using a cone mill. Thereafter the extragranular addition of 5-70% of ethylcellulose having 30-60% ethoxyl content and viscosity 60- 100 cps (preferably ETHOCEL™ type N100) to the dry milled granules is undertaken in a V-blender until a homogeneous blend is obtained. To this blend may
5 be added a glidant preferably talc and a lubricant preferably magnesium stearate. This final mixture is intimately blended and compressed into a matrix tablet using a rotary tablet press.

The matrix tablet can be used as is if no stealth characteristics are required. Under certain circumstances and for certain drugs, GIT stealth characteristics are
10 desirable, e.g., in situations where dose dumping, burst or food effects are to be avoided. Stealth characteristics can be obtained by encasing the matrix tablet in a special coat composition consisting of anionic copolymer(s) based on methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate. The preferred copolymers are the type A and/or Type
15 B. This special composition may contain one or more of the following, plasticiser about (0-25%), pigment about (0-25%), glidant about (0-30%), lubricant about (0-30%). The values of dry polymer(s) encasing the matrix tablet in mg per cm² of surface area of tablet is about 0.5-15 mg per cm². This special stealth encasement may be applied using a fluid bed or a conventional coating pan. It is preferable to use a side vented perforated coating pan in order to obtain a more uniform and efficient
20 encasement. The coating composition may be aqueous based, however, a solvent based composition is preferred.

EXAMPLES

The examples are described for the purposes of illustration and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Methods of synthetic chemistry, and pharmacology referred to but not explicitly described in this disclosure and examples are reported in the scientific literature and are well known to those skilled in the art.

Example 1 - Glipizide ER 5 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
10 Glipizide	1.83
Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	20
Ethylcellulose	16.17
Hydroxyethylcellulose	4
Lactose	30
15 Microcrystalline cellulose	23
Silicone dioxide	0.6
Sodium Lauryl sulfate	4
Magnesium stearate	0.4

Example 2 - Diltiazem hydrochloride ER 60 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
Diltiazem hydrochloride	58.82
Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	5
Ethylcellulose	5
25 Hydroxyethylcellulose	15
Lactose	5
Microcrystalline cellulose	9.18
Talc	1
Magnesium stearate	1

Example 3 - Nifedipine ER 60 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
Nifedipine	20
5 Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	20
Ethylcellulose	29
Hydroxyethylcellulose	3.8
Lactose	14
Microcrystalline cellulose	10
10 Silicone dioxide	1.2
Na lauryl sulfate	1
Magnesium stearate	1

Example 4 - Verapamil hydrochloride ER 60 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
15 Verapamil HCl	50
Hvdroxypropyl methylcellulose	10
Ethylcellulose	5
Hydroxyethylcellulose	8
20 Lactose	16
Microcrystalline cellulose	10
Magnesium stearate	1

Example 5 - Diltiazem hydrochloride/Hydrochlorothiazide ER 60/12.5 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
25 Diltiazem hydrochloride	48
Hydrochlorothiazide	10
Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	5.82
30 Ethylcellulose	5
Hydroxyethylcellulose	15
Lactose	5
Microcrystalline cellulose	9.18
Talc	1
35 Magnesium stearate	1

Example 6 - Manufacturing method and composition of GIT "stealth" encasement

		<u>% composition</u>
	Methacrylic acid copolymer type A/B	12
5	PEG 600	2
	water	5
	Talc	8
	Titanium dioxide	5
	Pigment	8
10	Ethanol	60

Eudragit L/S was added to ethanol using a silverson high shear mixer (solution A). Secondly, PEG 600 was added to water using a propeller stirrer (solution B). Talc, pigment and titanium dioxide were added to ethanol (suspension C) using a propeller mixer. Solution B was added into suspension C and mixed vigorously. This mixture was then added to solution A under high shear mixing conditions to obtain the GIT "stealth" encasement.

Example 7 - Bupropion ER

		<u>% composition</u>
20	Bupropion	39
	Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	35
	Ethylcellulose	5
	Hydroxyethylcellulose	5
25	Lactose	10
	Microcrystalline cellulose	5
	Silicone dioxide	0.6
	Caprylocaproyl or oleoyl or linoleoyl macrogolglycerides	5
30	Magnesium stearate	0.4

Example 8 - Buspirone hydrochloride ER 20 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
Buspirone HCl	5
5 Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	35
Ethylcellulose	6
Hydroxyethylcellulose	15
Lactose	30
Microcrystalline cellulose	8
10 Magnesium stearate	1

Example 9 - Tramadol hydrochloride ER 200 mg

	<u>% composition</u>
Tramadol hydrochloride	37
15 Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	33
Ethylcellulose	5
Hydroxyethylcellulose	5
Lactose	10
Microcrystalline cellulose	8
20 Magnesium stearate	1
Talc	1

Although preferred embodiments have been described herein in detail, it is
25 understood by those skilled in the art that variations may be made thereto without
departing from the scope of the invention or the spirit of the appended claims.